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The Astorian guarantees to its advertisers the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia River.

THE ASTORIAN PUBLISHING CO.

CRITICIZED.

A local amateur in whose ambitious brain burns the fire of poetic zeal, offers the following professed prophetic production, for criticism:

1903: Portland is waking from sleeping condition.

1904: Portland is shaking with mighty ambition.

1905: Portland is faking a great exposition.

1906: Portland is taking her old time position.

The architecture of this "piece" is of undoubted excellence, so it will be passed and left to the reader.

Support, however, smacks of the "I told you so," and evinces a lack of confidence in Oregon's progress which is unpardonable in an Oregonian.

The Lewis and Clark exposition is a legitimate enterprise in which the whole northwest is concerned, and while it may redound especially to the profit of certain Portland people, they are more than welcome to their share for the great work they are doing in making the fair a success, for its success means much to every part of Oregon.

That Portland will collapse and go to sleep after the fair is over is among the improbabilities which need not be worried about at this early date, especially as another ball will open before that time to occupy the attention of the public.

Unless all signs fall greater Astoria will then have awakened from the sleep of a century. There will be a buzz hereabouts that will disturb the slumbers of old settlers.

Keep your eye on Astoria.

ACADEMICAL HONORS.

A Harvard professor recently took occasion to express himself in a most uncomplimentary manner regarding the Ph. D. degree.

According to his opinion, a degree of this kind is frequently not worth the paper on which it is written.

Many of these doctors of philosophy, we are told, are genuine ignorants, and absolutely unfit to teach others.

Something like this has been suspected all along. The various degrees conferred by colleges and universities are held in preposterously high esteem.

They are respected and worshiped as veritable fetiches. The assumption is still too common that the person who has obtained a degree must needs be looked up to as an altogether superior person, that mere learning is, by all odds, better than experience, or individual thought.

There is a larger number of "scholars" turned loose every year who are piteously ignorant of rudimentary things and conditions.

A college degree or diploma is all right, as far as it goes, but it alone does not warrant claims of superiority or amount to a guarantee of success.

It must be supplemented by self-education and that invaluable knowledge which can be derived only from actual contact with the world and our fellow men.

The college and university are preliminary, or training schools, and nothing else, and degrees are merely evidences

that the possessors thereof have acquired that amount of knowledge which the teachers are able or expected to instill.

More accidental knowledge is worth nothing, unless it can be usefully applied, or made the stepping-stone to further and more valuable knowledge to be acquired by the individual himself.

A degree does not represent the summa summarum of wisdom. As its very name implies, it is merely a degree.

Education is a thing highly to be prized, but it must not be held to be more than it is. It must not be made superior to individual effort and talent.

It is the man that counts, not the mere degree, or superficial scholarly attainments. The best education is that which enables the young man to play his part well in a world which values demonstrated fitness more than anything else.

UNPARADONABLE WASTE

Forest fires entail a tremendous national waste every year. Oregon's recent loss from this source is fresh in the minds of her citizens.

Only a few weeks ago forest fires were raging almost throughout New England, and there, too, destroyed millions of feet of valuable timber.

This sort of general annual calamity could certainly be prevented by the adoption of proper precautionary measures. There is no excuse for such an appalling waste of natural resources.

The preservation of our forests is already a burning question of prime importance. It is as vital a matter as irrigation. The wholesale destruction of timber has gone on long enough.

It is time to stop it, and stop it for ever. Such destructive forest fires as our country is afflicted with, are utterly unknown in the well governed countries of Europe.

An efficient forestry establishment would certainly prevent their frequent recurrence.

HATCHERY OPERATIONS.

"We are building a dam at the mouth of Dakota creek," said Fish Commissioner Kershaw to a Fairhaven Herald reporter, "as a preliminary to the establishment of an experimental fish hatchery on that creek.

A small hatchery will be built eight miles above the dam. It will not be very extensive at the start as it is only an experiment and we do not intend to spend very much money until we know the result.

"We are doubling the capacity of the hatcheries at Kalama, Wind River and Chinook. We are also putting in an 'eying' station at Sultan for the purpose of propagating steelhead and chinook salmon. What money we spend will be spent for the purpose of propagating the best fish.

"Last year the total output of all the hatcheries in the state was \$4,000,000 and with the improved facilities this year we expect to turn out an additional \$6,000,000, or a total of about \$10,000,000."

When asked as to the proportionate number of the output of the hatcheries that reached maturity, Fish Commissioner Kershaw replied: "No accurate estimate can be formed, but let me illustrate: In 1889 there were 8000 fish marked at the Kalama hatchery and turned into the water. Out of this number there were 400 of these marked fish caught in 1901. In 1902 there were a large number caught."

Speaking of the fish exhibit at the St. Louis exhibition the commissioner said: "We expect to go ahead and do the best we possibly can with the amount at our disposal for such an exhibit. We have a good display anyway."

It is rather dispiriting to see the people of this country persist in the happy-go-lucky ways of looking at and treating their great national resources.

A growing accentuation of unfavorable changes in climatic conditions and the increasing frequency of disastrous floods, should certainly suffice to convince the American people that a careful protection and husbandry of the country's national wealth are not only desirable, but imperatively called for.

Heretofore we have made a practice of wasting our national wealth. Now let us commence to preserve what has been left. It is well worth preserving.

OUR GRASS-EATING CARP. An eastern man has a proposition for conferring a benefit on the fisheries of the Columbia river by putting in a \$40,000 fertilizing plant to operate on carp and shad exclusively.

These species are about the most plentiful and use- less fish that navigate the big water way, and not only detrimental to the salmon fisheries, but we have been informed that during the high-water the carp ruin pasturage prospects by eating the grass off the river valleys.

The gentleman who will find a commercial use for them should have a bounty both from the fisheries and agricultural department.—Tacoma West Coast Grocer.

In the last decade the increase in wealth was one-seventh greater than the increase in population.

The greatest glacial peak of the United States is Mt. Ranier, in Washington, more than 15,500 feet high.

Senator Fulton did himself and Astoria proud in his Fourth of July oration at Joseph. The power of real, true eloquence is the greatest gift to man.

The public printing at Washington costs the people of the United States \$5,000,000 a year, of which amount at least one-third, probably one-half, is wasted.

The largest oil ship in the world, the Narragansett, has just been launched in the Clyde. It will hold 10,000 tons of oil which can be discharged at the rate of 900 tons an hour.

According to Special Agent Waadby of the U. S. department of labor, there are 1,750,000 boys and girls between the ages of ten and fifteen years of age at work in factories in the United States.

The eternal ethics of commerce point to Astoria as a field for great commercial activity in the not distant future. Mercury is putting a foundation here that will, some day, sustain an immense foreign trade.

On account of the National Encampment Grand Army of the Republic to be held at San Francisco August 17 to 22, the O. R. & N. Co. have named the low rate of \$20.00 for the round trip by steamship in both directions, or \$25.00 for steamship in one direction and rail return or vice versa.

This rate will only apply on steamships leaving Astoria August 11 and 16, or on trains leaving Portland August 12, 13, 14. Tickets will be good for return within a final limit of sixty days from date of sale. Berth reservations should be made early to avoid disappointment. For further particulars apply to G. W. LOUNSBERRY, Agt.

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STARTLING EVIDENCE. Fresh testimony in great quantity is constantly coming in, declaring Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, coughs, and colds to be unequalled. A recent expression from T. J. McFarland, Bentonsville, Va., serves as example. He writes: "I had bronchitis for three years and doctored all the time without being benefited. Then I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery, and a few bottles wholly cured me." Equally effective in curing all lung and throat troubles. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers, druggist. Trial bottles free.

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Office of C. J. M. Vancouver Barracks, Wash., June 11, 1903. Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be received here until 11 A. M., July 11, 1903, and then opened, for repairs to hospital at Fort Stevens, Oregon. For full information apply to this office or Quartermaster Fort Stevens, Oregon. U. S. reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals or any part thereof. Envelopes containing proposals should be marked: "Proposals for repairs to hospital at Fort Stevens, Oregon," and addressed to undersigned.

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